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Seattle Scuba Schools News - February/March 09

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Dear Divers,

Hope all is well. At the last club dive we got to do something rare for Puget Sound, surf entries! Strong winds kicked up a little bit of wave action and made the entry at the Junkpile a little more interesting than usual. The dives were great though, an octopus was seen and the conditions are back to normal.

The winter storms dropped the visibility for a while, but we were out this morning and it was a nice and clear 25 - 30'. If you are itching for some better viz, come to Mexico with us. Expected visibility is 50 - 120', water temperature is 75.

We have a trip to Loreto planned for June 18 - 23. There are more details below.

We have also finalized the dates and information for our **new summer program for kids age 8 – 12.** We have conducted programs for the Seattle YMCA for years, but this year we are doing our own.

In the fall we will be having a **photography contest**, so start taking pictures now! More photography specialty dates have been added.

Also below are the new specialty program dates that have been added, information on the **Divemaster** and **Master Scuba Diver** programs, trips, classes etc...

If the outside air temperature is keeping you from diving at the moment, remember, we teach **Drysuit specialty classes every month** and have a wide range of drysuit sizes in rental.

Click on a link to jump to a specific section or scroll down and read it all:

Special News

[Loreto, Mexico Trip](#)

Come to sunny Mexico for some beautiful diving in a marine preserve

[Kids Summer Programs](#)

PADI Seal Team program for ages 8 - 12. Conducted in pool.

[Divemaster & Master Diver Information](#)

What is the difference? Plus a Divemaster info session

[Photography News](#)

More classes scheduled and plans for a photo contest

Upcoming Dives

[Boat Dives](#) - March 8

[Shore Dives](#) - February 22nd

Upcoming Training

[Advanced Classes](#) - *The follow up to the Open Water*

Feb 21 & 22

March 27 & 28

[Rescue Class](#) - *The third of the core classes*

May 9 - Basic Scuba Rescue for Open Water divers

May 9 & 10 - Full Rescue class for Advanced certified divers

[Specialties](#) - *Expand your skills in the areas that most interest you*

Deep Diver

Drysuit

Nitrox/Enriched Air

Digital Underwater Photography

Underwater Navigation

[CPR/First Aid](#)

[Gear Specials Corner](#) - Need a BCD? We have a bunch on special

[Coming next month](#)

Trip to Loreto – Mexico



Come dive Loreto National Marine Park in the Sea of Cortes. This region is home to over 800 species of fish, dolphins, turtles, seasonal whale sharks and many other critters big and small.

Loreto is a peaceful town that has not yet been overrun with tourists as other areas have.

Cost: \$641.30 for 4 days of diving, 5 nights in Loreto. \$300 for non divers.

Includes diving and accommodations. Flight and meals are not included. More information on what flight you need to book on the web page.

\$200 deposit required to confirm your space. There are about 8 spaces left on the trip and limited airfare available, so make yours plans to join us soon!

Advanced Open Water certification is required prior to trip. We have 4 Advanced classes between now and the trip if you haven't completed it yet.

[More information on Loreto Trip](#)

Kids Summer Programs - PADI Seal Team



For ages 8 - 12

Have kids or know any that are interested in Scuba and the underwater world?



This is a really fun program that introduces kids to diving skills and being underwater in safe and low stress environment.

There are 5 "Aquamissions" in the program. We will practice the basic skills of scuba diving such as equalizing ears, clearing regulators, how to use octopuses, getting water out of the mask, helping our buddies etc.... and play some great games such as the upside down ping pong ball race, seal ball races, diving for treasure, hovering like an astronaut, buoyancy games and more.

The Seal Team program is conducted entirely in the pool. Kids should have some swimming ability. Participants age 10 + can easily move on to a certification class after this program.

Cost: \$150. Includes 3 Saturday afternoon sessions, student materials and use of all the equipment needed.

Limited to 8 participants and we are only offering one session of this program for summer 2009, so sign up soon!

June 27th, 2009 Aquamission 1 & Snorkeling skills
July 25th, 2009 Aquamission 2 & 3
August 22nd, 2009 Aquamission 4 & 5

We also offer Jr Open Water certification classes for kids 10 +, and have two summer programs scheduled with the Seattle YMCA this year. Visit our new "Scuba for Kids" page for details: <http://www.seattlescuba.com/kids.html>

[More info](#)

Divemaster and Master Diver Programs Information

A common question in diving instruction is "What is the difference between the PADI Divemaster and Master Scuba Diver programs?".

The quick answer, a Divemaster is a leadership certification that allows one to work aboard dive boats, assist with classes, conduct review programs, local orientations and fun dives. A Master Diver is someone who has gone beyond the core classes of Open Water, Advanced and Rescue to gain additional experience, but is not qualified to supervise others.

Divemaster Class Information Session

We will walk through how we conduct the program, the requirements, expectations and outcomes. Anyone is welcome at this session, no matter where you are in your dive education. A great chance to have any questions answered with no obligation.

February 27th @ 6:00 pm

[More information on the Divemaster Program](#)

Master Scuba Diver Information

We have just added a page to the website with more information about this program.

[More information on the Master Dive Program](#)

Photography Corner

Our new feature with all the picture news you need. Seattle Scuba is expanding our photography offerings. Next month we might even add a photo to our photography corner :-).

Classes

We have Digital Underwater photography classes scheduled for April, May, with more to be announced for summertime. See the specialties section for more information. Whether you are an absolute newbie to taking pictures underwater or have taken hundreds, the photo specialty is a great class and is taught by someone who has taken literally thousands of photos underwater.

Gear

In addition to the full range of Intova cameras that we have had for a couple of years, late last year we became an authorized SeaLife dealer. SeaLife is one of the biggest names in the underwater camera business and released the DC800 camera in 2008. It has gotten great reviews and we have several in stock you can come and drool over, it won't hurt them, it is an underwater

camera after all. With the addition of the SeaLife cameras we have everything from a low cost \$20 reusable film camera, through all the ranges of digital up to a dual strobe \$1000+ camera system, so whatever your level of photography interest and budget, we have options for you.

Underwater Photo Contest

In fall of 2009 we will be having a photo contest with great prizes. More details TBA, but this warning gives you plenty of time to get out there and take some great pictures, and to take Todds's UW photo class so they really are great pictures :-).

Advanced Open Water Class

February 21 & 22

March 28 & 29

April 18 & 19

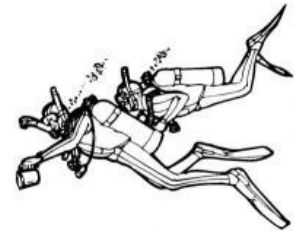
5 Dives, two days, lots of fun. Better your navigation, experience diving between 60' and 100', try boat diving, learn to identify some of the local creatures, work on your buoyancy, try a night dive..... This class, along with the Basic Rescue, is the follow up to the Open Water class and it introduces you to some of extra skills that are important for diving, and just some fun stuff that is good to know.

Day 1 is beach diving. Day 2 is boat diving. Tuition includes full rental gear.



Cost: \$385 total

Tuition: \$250 Textbook: \$40 Charter Fee: \$95



Special: Drysuit Specialty and Advanced Class Combo

Book your AOW and Drysuit class together and get a \$50 tuition discount and free rental for the drysuit class, plus you get to do your entire AOW class in a Drysuit. Two days of shore diving, one day of boat diving, 7 dives total all in a warm drysuit. Drysuit class is typically scheduled a week or two before the Advanced.

Cost: \$485

[More info](#)

Rescue Diver Classes

This past weekend our intrepid Rescue Diver candidates successfully dealt with their instructor simulating panic, pretending to fall unconscious and otherwise attempting to throw all manner of emergencies at them. She was successfully rescued many many times and they all passed with flying colors.

NAUI Basic Scuba Rescue - For Open Water Divers

Next Class: May 9

PADI Rescue Diver Program - For Advanced Certified Divers

Next Class: May 9 & 10

Current First Aid/CPR certification is required for both of the above, we have a class scheduled on May 8.

[More info](#)

Specialties Overview

More details and schedule on the website:
<http://www.seattlescuba.com/spec.html>

Deep Diver Specialty

April 4 & 5 – **only 2 spaces left**

Learn the procedures and skills necessary to safely dive to depths up to 130' feet. 4 dives over 2 days. Prerequisite: Advanced Open Water. One day of beach diving and one day of boat diving. Cost: \$225 Tuition. \$95 charter fee. \$40 textbook.



Nitrox/Enriched Air Specialty

March 13 - 6:00 pm

April 27 - 6:00pm

A great class to take in conjunction with the Deep Diver specialty. Extend your bottom time by reducing the Nitrogen in your breathing mix. Enhance your dive skills with this all academic class, there are no dives required. Home study plus an evening of academic review. Cost: \$95 Tuition. \$70 Study Kit.

Drysuit Specialty



March 14
April 19
May 9

Learn to dive safely in a drysuit. 2 dives in one day. Be able to dive and stay warm all year round. If the cold is keeping you inside you should come take this class. Cost: \$150 tuition. \$40 textbook. Includes drysuit and undergarment rental.

Special: Sign up for this and your Advanced class together and get free rental on both and a \$50 tuition discount.

Underwater Navigation Specialty

May 2 & 3

Take the guesswork out of knowing where you are underwater. Build on the basic compass skills taught in the open water to be able to successfully navigate squares, triangles and underwater skills course. Also refine your natural navigation skills to have a better general feeling of where you are. 3 dives over two days. Cost: \$175 tuition. \$40 textbook.

Underwater Photography Specialty

April 4 & 5
May 30 & 31

Learn to take great underwater pictures and get ready for our fall photo contest! This class is taught by Todd Husman, local diver, Divemaster and just plain nuts about photography. Todd has taken thousands of pictures in the local area with everything for a cheap 1 megapixel underwater camera to a digital SLR with dual strobes. Two days of classroom and diving. Cost: \$195 Tuition. \$28 Textbook. \$30 a day camera rental (or use your own).



CPR/First Aid Class

May 8, 2009

Learn/refresh your skills in order to respond appropriately in emergency situations. No diving certification required!

This class is required for the Rescue classes and generally recommended for everyone.



The guidelines for how to administer CPR/First Aid have changed recently, so if refreshing those possibly life saving skills isn't enough of an incentive, come refresh to learn the new standards.

Tuition: \$65 Student Kit: \$39

[More info](#)

Boat Trips

Puget Sound Trips - We leave from Elliot Bay Marina in Seattle and go out for two great dives in the Puget Sound area

The last boat trip we went out to Orchard Rocks and Blake Island reef, at the first site the divers got a treat when the resident seals came down and checked out the visitors.

March 8th - 9:00 departure - 3 spaces

April 4th - 9:00 departure - 3 spaces

Cost: \$95

Open to divers with cold water experience.

[More info](#)

Shore Club Dives

No meetings, roll call or anything that might interfere with being underwater, just diving! If you haven't been to one of these before you should, they are great fun. You must have cold water experience to join these dives as they are not guided dives. Contact us if you need a refresher or a local area orientation.

February 22nd at Redondo Beach Park- Meet at the school at 9:00 or the site at 10:00. Free!

March 22nd at Edmonds Underwater Park - Meet at the school at 9:00 or at the site at 10:00. Free!



More on the website, scheduled all the way through August!

Photo courtesy of Todd Husman.

[More info](#)

Gear Specials

We have some **Promate Guardian BCDs** on closeout, 60% off MSRP for those that are left. MSRP is \$629, the sizes we have left you can have at \$251.60. These are weight integrated, jacket style BCD's made of tough 1000



denier cordura fabric. They hold up to 20 lbs of weight in releasable pouches and another 10 in rear trim pouches. Built in SubAcqua Horn so you can quack like a duck.... and get your buddies attention underwater or signal to the dive boat at the surface. These are a really great deal and a nice intermediate or beginner's BCD.

We still have a few of the Dive Rite Transpac and Wing systems at 30% off:



The BCDs are custom fit **Dive Rite Transpac and Wing systems**. Standard MSRP is \$758 - Our sale price on the ones we have in stock is 30% off: \$530.60 - Normal maximum discount we can offer is 15%, but we got these on closeout so we can pass the savings on to you. They are last year's wing model that they have made very minor cosmetic modifications to for 09.

Coming next time....

Well maybe not next time, but we are planning some more trips, one to Catalina in September, and one further afield to Palau for next year.

More specialty dates in next month's newsletter, plus some more fun dive opportunities.

That is it for now, dive safe,

Craig & the rest of the Scuba Schools Staff

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www.seattlescuba.com

This newsletter is available online at: <http://www.seattlescuba.com/februarynewsletter.pdf>

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